

IN THE ABSTRACT:

Please substitute the following Substitute Abstract for the originally filed Abstract:

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A plant which produces a metal band having a protective coating includes a series of treatment sections positioned one after another in a continuous line. The plant includes two coating sections, respectively, a galvanization section and a painting section, in which the metal band follows a running path having at least a vertical portion with a cooling or drying mechanism. The plant is positionable within a single building having a central tower with two abutting sections in which the coating section is provided and two halls in which are installed, respectively, a supply section and an exit section, each with horizontal accumulators.